



2017 Wisconsin Budget Address Workforce Fact Sheet

“During the past year, more people were employed in Wisconsin than ever before.”

- The monthly average number of people employed in Wisconsin in 2016 was 2,998,889, higher than at any point since 1976 (when this statistic began being recorded). (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey)

“Unemployment is now down to the lowest levels since January of 2001.”

- December 2016 Unemployment Rate: 4.0% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey, 1/24/2017)
- January 2001 Unemployment Rate: 3.9% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey)

“And the percentage of people working in Wisconsin is among the best in the country.”

- For December 2016 (the latest date for which data is available), Wisconsin’s Labor Force Participation Rate was 68.3%, 5.6% above the national average and the 8th highest in the nation. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES)

“Over the past year, we ranked first in the Midwest for new manufacturing jobs.”

(Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Survey, 1/20/2017)

- From December 2015 to December 2016, Wisconsin created 2,600 manufacturing jobs, an increase of .6%
 - Number of Jobs Created: The 2,600 increase was 1st in the Midwest and 7th in the nation.
 - Growth: Percent increase was 14th in the nation and 1st in the Midwest

“We also propose expanding career and technical training in our correctional facilities to help transition offenders into the workforce.”

- The Governor’s budget will expand the Windows-to-Work Program and Vocational Training Programs by \$1.0 million GPR annually so that offenders have skills necessary for employment upon reentry to society. (Budget in Brief)
- The Governor’s budget will provide \$1,000,000 GPR in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$50,000 GPR annually through Wisconsin Fast Forward to expand the mobile classroom program and provide job skills training for inmates at correctional facilities who are preparing for reentry into the workforce. (Budget in Brief)
- The Governor’s budget will create an apprenticeship coordinator within the Department of Workforce Development to expand and streamline apprenticeship opportunities for inmates in correctional facilities. (Budget in Brief)

“A good job is one of the best ways to keep people from re-entering the system.”

- One study found that 23 percent of those who were unemployed were reincarcerated in the first year out, while only 8% of those who earned \$10 per hour or more were reincarcerated. “Similarly, the more wages earned two months after



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release, the lower a respondent's likelihood of reincarceration. Predicted probabilities of reincarceration were 8 percent for those earning more than \$10 per hour; 12 percent for those earning \$7 to \$10 per hour; and 16 percent for those earning less than \$7 per hour—compared with 23 percent for those who were unemployed.” (“Employment After Prison: A Longitudinal Study of Releases In Three States,” Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, 10/2008)

“More people were employed last year in Wisconsin than at any point in our history.”

- The monthly average number of people employed in Wisconsin in 2016 was 2,998,889, higher than at any point since 1976 (when this statistic began being recorded). (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey)

“We have one of the highest percentages of people working of any state in the nation.”

- For December 2016 (the latest date for which data is available), Wisconsin's Labor Force Participation Rate was 68.3%, 5.6% above the national average and the 8th highest in the nation. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES)

“And our unemployment rate is the lowest it's been - well - since Tommy Thompson was governor.”

- December 2016 Unemployment Rate: 4.0% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey, 1/24/2017)
- January 2001 Unemployment Rate: 3.9% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey)

“Our budget creates a panel to review occupational licenses to determine which are truly needed to protect public health and safety and which of those are just barriers to employment.”

- The Governor's Budget creates a thirteen person council, administratively attached to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, to study occupational licensure in Wisconsin. By December 31, 2018, the council shall a report making recommendations regarding the repealing of occupational licenses based on the seven criteria. (An evaluation of whether the unregulated practice of the profession, occupation or business can clearly harm or endanger the health, safety or welfare of the public, and whether the potential for the harm is recognizable and not remote or speculative; An evaluation of whether the public can be effectively protected by any means other than requiring a license; An evaluation of whether the public can reasonably be expected to benefit from the creation of the license; An estimate of the number of potential licensees; An estimate of the total cost to each licensee to complete licensure (including educational expenses, examination fees and license fees); An evaluation of whether such a license is required in other states; and, A



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statement from the agency that would be required to regulate the new license.) The report shall also make recommendations for the reduction or elimination of continuing education credits for those licenses not recommended for elimination.
(Budget in Brief)